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**Picolyl substituted N-heterocyclic
carbene/palladium catalyzed Heck
reactions**

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Abstract: Novel 1,3-dialkylimidazolium and 1,3- dialkyltetrahydropyrimidinium hexafluorophosphate salts as N-heterocyclic carbene precursors were prepared by reacting N,N'-dialkylethandiamine or N,N'-dialkylpropandiamine, triethyl orthoformate, and ammonium hexafluorophosphate. The salts were characterized spectroscopically and tested in homogeneous Heck reactions.