

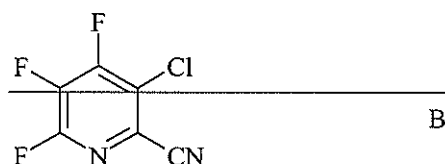
wherein R is as previously defined and Met represents, Zn-halide, Zn-R, tri-(C₁-C₄ alkyl)tin, copper, or B(OR²)(OR³), where R² and R³ are independent of one another, hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, or when taken together form an ethylene or propylene group in the presence of a transition metal catalyst to produce the 4-amino-3-chloro-5-fluoro-6-

5 (substituted)picolinate of Formula I.

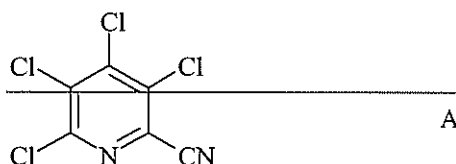
2. The process of Claim 1 in which the coupling of step f) is performed prior to the hydrolysis and esterification of step e).

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3. ~~An improved process of increasing the amount of recoverable 3-chloro-4,5,6-trifluoropicolinonitrile (Formula B)~~



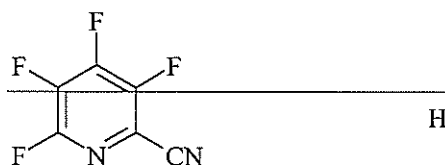
~~prepared from fluorinating 3,4,5,6-tetrachloropicolinonitrile (Formula A)~~



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~~with a source of fluoride ion wherein the improvement comprises the steps of:~~

~~i) isolating the over-fluorinated 3,4,5,6-tetrafluoropicolinonitrile (H)~~



~~by product from fluorinating 3,4,5,6-tetrachloropicolinonitrile;~~

— ii) reacting the isolated 3,4,5,6-tetrafluoropicolinonitrile (H) (a) with lithium chloride (LiCl), (b) with 3,4,5,6-tetrachloropicolinonitrile (Formula A) in the presence of a phase-transfer catalyst or (c) with a combination of LiCl and 3,4,5,6-tetrachloropicolinonitrile to produce a mixture consisting predominantly of 3,4,5,6-tetrachloropicolinonitrile;

5 monofluoro-trichloropicolinonitrile and difluoro-dichloropicolinonitrile; and

— iii) recycling the mixture consisting predominantly of 3,4,5,6-tetrachloropicolinonitrile, monofluoro-trichloropicolinonitrile and difluoro-dichloropicolinonitriles to the fluorination reaction preparing 3-chloro-4,5,6-trifluoropicolinonitrile (Formula B);

10 43. A compound of the formula

